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New Reports Hint Mystery On Red's Luna

MOSCOW (AP) — Tass, the Soviet news agency, published an East German report yesterday saying the Russian moon rocket—Luna 5—kicked up a huge cloud of dust on the moon last Wednesday and that it was caused by the firing of retrorockets.

The report suggested men would have trouble landing there because of a very dusty surface.

Westerners had been speculating that the spaceship, loaded with detection instruments, had crashed on the moon instead of making a planned soft landing with retrorockets braking it.

Publish Picture

In addition to the Tass account, the government newspaper Izvestia published a picture of what it said was a dust cloud on the moon. The photograph was not clear.

The official Soviet news agency account was taken from a report by the East German news agency ADN from the Rodewisch Observatory in East Germany.

Rodewisch said photos showed "a cloud of dust raised by the braking engines." It said the cloud was 143 miles long and 50 miles wide.

The official Soviet announcement of the end of Luna's voyage indicated the rocket had crashed. The East German report now raised the question of what actually happened to Luna 5 if its retrorockets functioned.

Locates 'Landing'

The ADN report said the photos indicated "that the landing took place in the southwestern part of the Sea of Clouds."

In "Selenograph coordinates," on the international recognized moon chart, "the center of the cloud was 31 degrees eastward [longitude] and 11 degrees eastward [latitude]," the report said.

"The cloud subsided rather quickly after that and was hardly visible" six minutes after it was first noted.

Western radio listeners had said the rocket's radio signals ceased suddenly. The Jodrell Bank Radio Observatory in England said it never heard a change of radio signals to indicate firing of the retrorockets.